



Drugs, drugs, drugs...
pg. 8.

N.S.S.E

Saint Mary's students are invited to
"Talk to NeSSiE". Not the monster,
but a monster of a survey!! pg. 4.



THE JOURNAL

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The Student Newspaper of Saint Mary's University · Halifax · NS

The Controversy Continues...



KIM DARES

Even in his retirement former Saint Mary's Philosophy professor Peter March is creating controversy. Peter March is no stranger to seeing his name in the headlines.

In 2006 March posted caricatures of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad on his office door after they were published in a Danish Newspaper. The controversial cartoons created quite a stir worldwide, as well as on campus. Although the cartoons were on March's door for less than a day they led to a student protest. Many students spoke openly saying March should have been fired as a result. He wasn't, however, and continued teaching Philosophy here at SMU until the end of December.

March found himself in the middle of controversy again last year when he agreed to debate American Race Realist Jared Taylor. After the debate was cancelled more than once, and SMU declined any involvement with it, Taylor and March did eventually debate at an undisclosed location off campus for a radio show.

It is now Peter March's retirement that is making headlines. Professor March had told students in September that he was considering retiring at the end of this year. Since it was announced March has been on Live at 5, featured in both the Daily News and the Chronicle Herald, and on CBC News. The reason is not his retirement itself; rather, it's the way it has been handled by the University.

Over the holidays March and the university came to an agreement that allowed him to retire earlier than he had planned. March said he has a few books he plans to write now that he has the time, and has also recently bought a South-end daycare centre with a former spouse. The settlement amount reached between SMU and Professor March has not been disclosed to the public.

Professor March was teaching a full year Philosophy course that has now, much to many students displeasure, been picked up by another professor. Much of the outcry is due to students who selected this course based on the fact

that Professor March would be teaching it, so to find out, abruptly no less, that he has been replaced halfway through is quite the let down. A petition circulated the class with the hopes of persuading the University to consider other alternatives.

Some of the suggestions include giving students the option to switch out of the course without losing credit for the previous semester; essentially turning the midterm grade into a final grade for a half year course. This suggestion, among others, was turned down by University administration.

The most interesting factor in all of this is that it could have been avoided. The university could have asked Professor March to stay until April to finish out the year. Professor March even offered to teach the second half of his Philosophy 1201.0 course at no cost to the university.

The Journal spoke to March about his retirement and the situation it left his students in, and he expressed a genuine sadness for his students with regards to the way this was handled, and also expressed a strong opinion against the University's actions following his retirement.

Professor March's offer to finish out the semester for his students at no cost would not be allowed by the Faculty Union as it would be considered exploitation. The Union and March had found a compromise; he could have taught the course this semester for pay, and then used the money to create a Scholarship fund here at Saint Mary's. But the university said no.

When asked why the University would not allow him to finish out the year it appears it all came down to money. "If I retired at Christmas they would save a lot of money, otherwise they would have to pay me until August." It made better financial sense in the University's eyes, according to March, for him to retire in December and be replaced with part-time professors.

The biggest issue surrounding his abrupt retirement is the mistreatment of the students of Saint Mary's in all of this. Professor March said the University used "a bait and

switch technique on its students, which is highly unethical, and illegal." Students paid for a product and then half way through the year that product was transformed into something new without student consent.

March drew the analogy that students are customers of the university and should be treated with the respect any other customers would be. "It is like if you were looking to buy a Gibson guitar and you pay a down payment on that guitar, and then two weeks later you return to pay it off, and the salesclerk tells you they no longer have the guitar you wanted, and your only option is to substitute it for a different guitar altogether." Then you are no longer getting what was paid for, and this situation could only be made worse if the salesclerk were to tell you they didn't have the guitar you paid for when it is sitting right there in front of you.

This is what happened to students in Peter March's class; they browsed around looking for a course, made a selection, and paid for it, in full, yet the university has failed to deliver the product that was paid for. The professor replacing March is certainly qualified, but with a new professor comes changes to the curriculum, to the teaching method, and to any subjective components of a course. Students are no longer getting what they specifically paid for, and when they approached the University to fix the situation they were met with brick walls and a decision making process that was not open to students.

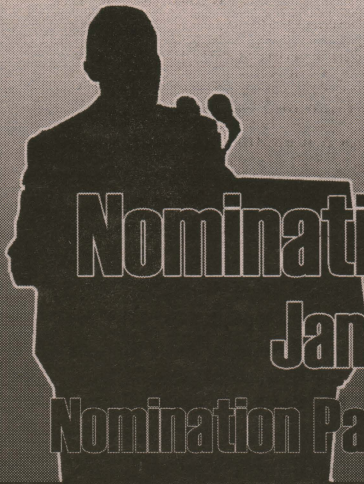
The final message Professor March wanted to bestow upon students at Saint Mary's is that "students are not being treated like equal parties to a serious contractual agreement, that students should be getting what is paid for." The overall message was that students should not be taking no for an answer, as in the end without students there would be no Saint Mary's. Professor March said that a student strike, or even the threat of a student strike from SMUSA, may have been enough to change this situation altogether.

The Journal tried numerous times to speak with administration about the matter, and at the last minute was given a "no comment".

SMUSA NEWS

WANT TO BE AN... EXECUTIVE?

SMUSA EXECUTIVE ELECTION



Nominations Open

January 28th, 9:00am

Nominations Close

February 1st, 5:00pm

Nomination Packages Available at the SMUSA Office, 5th floor, Student Centre

Attention Potential Grads

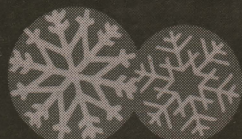
Graduation Pictures

About iMage will be on campus
February 13th & 14th in the Loyola
Private Dining Room (PDR)



Call 429-1977 to book an Appointment
to guarantee your grad photo in the yearbook

About iMage Photography Co.



2008

WINTER

CARNIVAL

Open Mic
Wednesday, January 23rd
9:00pm to 1:00am
Life made him tough.
Love made him strong.
Music made him hard.
Power Hour
4:30pm - 6:00pm & 9:00pm - 10:30pm
Gorsebrook lounge

Winter Ball
A FORMAL EVENT
MCNALLY THEATRE AUDITORIUM
JANUARY 24TH
9:00 PM TO 1:00 AM
\$15 AT THE DOOR
WET-DRY, ALL AGES WELCOME

DodgeBall
a TRUE tournament
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
Friday, January 25, 2008
at the Tower
from 2pm - 6pm
smusa

Guitar Hero III & Rock Band
School of Rock
STUE
ROCK BAND
Friday, January 25th, 2008
4:30pm - 6:00pm
Gorsebrook lounge

Partner
Figure Skating
Saturday, January 26, 2008
8pm - 10pm
Huskies Arena
BLADES OF GLORY
smusa

HAPPY HOUR
monday to friday 4:30-6pm
wednesday and thursday 9-10:30pm
2\$ DRAFT



WEDNESDAY
January 23rd
OPEN MIC
Winter Carnival
Edition

THURSDAY
January 24th
BANFF ICE presents
SKI PANTS PARTY



FRIDAY
January 25th
WINTER CARNIVAL
presents
GUITAR HERO

SATURDAY
January 26th
CLOSED
PRIVATE PARTY

SUNDAY
January 27th
VARSAITY NIGHT

MONDAY
January 28th
SOCIETY SUMMIT

TUESDAY
January 29th
WORLD SPORT LOUNGE

the **Gorsebrook**
since 1974
lounge
496-8712

The Gorsebrook Lounge is open to SMU students, Alumni, and Guests

PERSPECTIVES

Letter From The Editor: The Loss of a Beloved Halifax Live Venue

AMANDA WENEK

The Attic Nightclub has been a Halifax staple for nine and a half years. It brought you a dance floor of underground hip hop, indie dance, retro, live rock shows, and, yes, it brought you dollar drinks. But sadly, it closed its doors for good on Saturday January 19th. This decision came from the higher powers, otherwise known as the owners of also The Dome and Cheers. The Attic, they say, was just not making enough money to justify keeping it open.

With the recent acts of violence

and disruptive behavior this bar complex has seen in the past month, the city cracked down and the complex temporarily lost its liquor license. The owners raised prices of their drinks to \$2.50 to ensure they could reopen. This definitely won't help The Attic's cause. Many people would come up from the Dome and Cheers to get drinks from The Attic as it often was not as busy as the other two, but with this change it lost even those customers.

The Attic hosted over 700 bands in the time it was open. Many of whom were unknown, up

and coming, or local, such as The Letter Unfolds, and Easy Tiger. The Attic gave them a chance to play in front of a crowd, a chance to be seen and heard, but closing the bar will leave the city with one fewer venue to help generate income, as well as giving these bands a chance they may not otherwise get. It also hosted some big names such as The Bouncing Souls, Strung Out, The Reason, the Cancer Bats, and Comeback Kid.

This leaves many people wondering what will happen to the live hardcore/punk/rock music scene, as The Attic was one of the few

19+ bar-type venues left in the city. Stage 9 was a popular venue, but it too closed. The Marquee has had many bands come through it, such as Bane, Boys Night Out, and Moneen, but how many shows can it really attract on a regular basis while also keeping its monthly and weekly events?

The closure also leaves a couple of great bartenders, cover charge and coat check people, and bar assistants out of a steady job. Wednesday night resident DJ, Tony Haze, was very disappointed with the decision to close the bar. "It's simple, but tragic", he said,

"the complex is a business plan, pure and simple, to the business owners, and The Attic [just doesn't make enough] to justify its existence in their eyes."

Current employees have no definite idea what the owners plan to do with the bar, some people speculate that it will be another Dome/Palace type bar "since that's what seems to make the money", and one bartender said "They will probably renovate, and open it as another shitty country-type bar". The most recent rumor is that it will be made into a VIP section for The Dome.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

Why didn't Juno, Jamie Lynn, and the rest have abortions ("Teen Pregnancies--Hype vs Reality," January 16th, 2008)?

Having an abortion costs time and trouble and causes at least some pain. It also consumes medi-

Editor's note: In the movie, Juno went to have an abortion where she ran into a protestor who claimed that her baby has fingernails, and that simple statement affected Juno in such a way that she couldn't go through with it. Jamie Lynn's mother claims her Baptist beliefs won't allow her daughter to go the route of abortion... but I say, she already broke one rule why not another?

cal resources. Those are excellent reasons not to get pregnant if you don't want to be pregnant.

But if you are pregnant and you don't want to be, why not have an abortion?

-Mark Mercer
Department of Philosophy

We Come In Peace

PAUL FITZGERALD

Twelve students from Saint Mary's will soon be heading to Belfast, Northern Ireland to promote a cause they firmly believe in: peace.

From February 14 to 26, students from the University's Conflict Resolution Society will travel to the former war torn country in order to work with young citizens and teachers to address issues surrounding peace and the importance of conflict resolution.

This is the third year in a row that students from Saint Mary's will visit Catholic, Protestant and Integrated schools throughout Belfast and participate in the facilitation of conflict resolution workshops. This year's initiative has been developed in consultation and partnership with Peaceful Schools International, the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax, An Cumann, The Estate of Patrick Power at Saint Mary's, Mr. Brian Doherty (Old Triangle Restaurant) and Barnardo's UK Children's Charity.

According to Bridget Brownlow, Conflict Resolution Advisor at SMU, students are now gearing up for their big trip abroad.

On Wednesday, Marie McIntyre and Margaret Neeson, both teachers from Saint Aidan's Primary School in West Belfast, were on campus to meet students from the University's Conflict Resolution Society going to Belfast. The students from SMU will also be working with McIntyre and Neeson while in Belfast.

Brownlow indicates that this trip for the students is an ideal occasion for them to assist a new generation of Irish people with the development of conflict resolution skills and knowledge.

"This initiative presents an opportunity to share our experiences living and growing up in Canada,

as well as an opportunity to share our conflict resolution skills with many of the children residing in Belfast and its surrounding areas. Ultimately, we expect to work alongside Catholic and Protestant students, sharing our experience, strength and hope for a more peaceful world in which we can all learn in a safe environment," she adds.

Saint Mary's is the first university both nationally and internationally to have met the criteria for membership in Peaceful Schools International, by virtue of its internal Conflict Resolution Program — a benefit for faculty, staff and students alike.

Dr. Hetty van Gorp, President of Peaceful Schools International, applauds the University's commitment to making this trip to Northern Ireland an annual event.

"Based on the feedback from the students who participated in previous trips, it is obvious that this experience was life-altering and was beneficial to both those who participated as well as the Irish children and youth with whom they spent time," says van Gorp, who formed Peaceful Schools International shortly after her son died from an incident with a bully at a local school in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Commerce from Saint Mary's in the fall of 2005.

"As Saint Mary's is the first university to become a member of Peaceful Schools International, I am sincerely grateful that your institution has chosen to return to Northern Ireland," she says. "This initiative is yet more evidence that SMU is forward thinking in its approach to learning about the nature of conflict and its resolution in real-life situations."

Who Says that University is Easy?

Break Ups and Break Throughs- Part One

JESSICA WOODMAN

What if you break up with your boyfriend or your girlfriend and you are right in the middle of a semester? Did you ever feel so upset that you couldn't concentrate on school? Break-ups are painful and the close of an important relationship generally sucks.

A break-up coupled with living away from your family can be devastating. Not to mention, some break-ups are messy. If you live with your ex and they can't move out until the end of the month...it's likely you will spend the next few weeks fighting like cats and dogs. What do you do?

I wish I knew all the answers. I'm not a professional counsellor but I have had experience at breaking up. It sucks. You don't eat, you don't sleep. You cry over nothing and it usually comes in threes with either your car breaking down or you and your best friend getting into a fight.

First, St. Mary's has wonderful

counsellors available for you on the 4th Floor of the SUB building. I have met them personally and talked to them many times and they want to help you. If you feel like you might lose your mind and can't get in to see them go straight to the Emergency room. There are trained professionals there 24 hours a day. If the first person you talk to doesn't help you, keep trying.

Second, don't do the things that have been done in the past. Don't get wasted, go downtown, and then try to have a conversation with your ex either by drunk dialing them to tell them how much you hate them or showing up and crashing their party.

Don't do drugs.

Don't try to sleep with your ex's best friend for revenge while drunk, or on drugs...or sober.

Don't quit university or your job. You could call in sick for a while if your job seems too stressful for you. You could also take a weekend or a few days and visit

your family if they are near. Rest up and take care of your emotional health. That is better than throwing away your education and career over a stupid relationship. Remember 20 years from now you will never even remember their name.

Don't sit by yourself. Call your friends and talk about the pain you are in. If you really don't have any here at school, call your old friends. Invest in a phone card and take some time to touch base with people who love you.

Don't blame yourself. Sometimes people break up with other people because of their family issues from their past and not because of you. Sometimes people are afraid to be in love. That does not mean that it was your fault.

Don't throw all of your ex's stuff out the window to get them back for hurting your feelings.

...Check back next week for what you should DO.

Hot and Sexy Recycling

ADAM HARRIS

Last semester I facilitated a workshop for each floor in Residence as part of a project for the Environmental Seminar class. The workshop was a lot of fun. Each floor learned the proper way to sort waste, competed against another floor to see who could sort the best, and then designed their own poster about what goes in each bin for their lounge or hallway.

Recycling and sustainability is becoming a hot topic. Around campus and in the three Residences, departments like Facilities Management and Aramark are working to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly. For example clear bags are now being given out with the weekly toilet paper to the floors and paper plates are being used a lot more frequently than Styrofoam in the Dockside cafeteria.

In a few weeks, the university will be hosting a Sustainability Day and new recycling bins will be launched at various locations across campus.

If you are living in Res or off campus, don't forget to be sorting all of your waste.

You can find information about what goes where on the HRM's website <http://www.halifax.ca/wrms/>. Nova Scotia is one of the world's leaders in waste diversion.

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SOCIETY

AIIESEC Canada to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Since 1958, AIIESEC Canada has been providing university students and graduates with leadership experiences and the opportunity to participate in a Global Internship Program. Now present in 27 Canadian universities, hosting 7 annual conferences, and having facilitated 7500 exchanges, AIIESEC Canada has blossomed into an ideal forum for professional development, cultural exposure, and personal growth.

AIIESEC Canada first began in Montreal, fittingly the host city of their 2008 National Congress. As an organization, however, AIIESEC was initiated in Europe after World War II by students seeking to alleviate political tensions between nations through corporate integration – that is, promoting the exchange of knowledge, skill sets, and most importantly individu-

als. Now present in 103 countries and over 800 institutions of higher learning worldwide, AIIESEC is the world's largest student-run organization and has continued in its mission to improve the world by nurturing professionally excellent and internationally aware young leaders.

As stated by Mr. Blake Goldring, President and CEO of AGF Management and an alumnus of AIIESEC Canada, "AIIESEC, without question, is the breeding ground for the world's future leaders."

AIIESEC Canada has more than 50 000 alumni, all of whom have gained the experience of running a small business long before graduation. AIIESEC members have the opportunities to lead teams, create and execute strategic plans, facilitate and organize con-

ferences, and meet with CEOs on local, national, and international levels to discuss sponsorship and the internship program. They also receive and provide specific training in business fields like accounting, human resources, marketing, and more.

On April 5th, 2008, AIIESEC Canada will be hosting a 50th Anniversary Alumni Gala in Montreal, Quebec. The event will reunite over 300 alumni to celebrate AIIESEC's past accomplishments and ring in the next chapter of its history.

AIIESEC is a Non-for Profit Organization provides Exchange and Leadership Opportunities to Canadian Students. For more information, contact: www.aiesec.ca, info@aiesec.ca

Interested in Summer Research at SMU?

ADAM HARRIS
SMUSA Science Rep.

The deadline for NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) for 2008 is fast approaching. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday February 15, 2008, in room S221 in the Science building.

There are some requirements, including being a full time science student with a declared major. You should also have a high academic

standing. In the past most students have had a QPA of 3.7 or more. The application is easy to fill out, and is available in the Dean of Science office (room S221), along with the full criteria.

If you are interested in a specific research project, you should also contact the departmental Chairperson of your declared major.

The awards are sponsored by NSERC, or the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Their vision is to "...

help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians". NSERC is a branch of the federal government supporting research and technological development. Every year they support roughly 23,000 students at many universities in Canada.

If you have general questions, please contact the Dean of Science Office at 491-6214 or susan.dore@smu.ca or check out www.nserc.gc.ca.

A Public Service Announcement from PAWS: Be Kind to Your Four-Footed Friends

BRITTANY HILTON

The Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAWS) is a campus society, based on the principle and recognition that animals are complex beings deserving of our consideration and respect. It is our goal to raise awareness to issues critical to the welfare of animals and encourage compassionate choices consistent with the best interest of all of our fellow creatures, human and non-human alike. PAWS presence on campus wishes to promote the appreciation of the intrinsic value of animal life, the role that all humans play in the active stewardship, mindfulness of the impact of our daily behaviors and choices reflected on animals, the right of animals to be free from cruelty, neglect, and abuse, the caring responsibility of companion animals and the preservation of wild species and their habitats.

This year PAWS has been working on a couple new projects, Planned Pethood; Inspired by the over population of feral cats in the HRM, is a non profit organization that seeks to fund neutering operations for companion animals as well as educating the public of the importance of proper care for your pets.

The project that we are about to start in collaboration with InterNICHE (the International Network for Humane Education; www.interniche.org) is the recognition and support by the

university of the fundamental right of students to freedom of conscience, as well as to an education in the field of their choice without having to compromise their beliefs, by the adoption of a policy on conscientious objection to the use of animals in teaching and assessment. Adopting a policy that allows students to act in accordance to their ethical beliefs provides an atmosphere of academic freedom, where all people are welcome and ideas are exchanged freely.

This is particularly important in a University like Saint Mary's, which is a diverse institution welcoming people from different countries and a wide spectrum of cultures and beliefs that can create a conflict between religious and or moral conscience and academic obligations to participate in the use of animals. In this multicultural and multi-ethnic context, it becomes no longer possible to ignore the need for an acknowledgment of a different model of human-animal relations, even more when there is no reason to kill animals for dissections or use them in experiments for education and training.

InterNICHE, an open and diverse network comprising of students, teachers and animal campaigners, supports student conscientious objectors, and works with institutions and educators worldwide to invest in high quality, modern and innovative methods that do not involve

harming animals. Ethical education without the harmful use of animals, indeed, employs methods that are more efficient and more relevant to teaching objectives. Advanced computer technology offers numerous possibilities, from virtual dissections and experimental laboratories on-screen, to fully immersive virtual reality simulations of clinical procedures. Modern training aids for clinical skills and surgery practice also include microsurgery models and highly realistic medical simulation mannequins with artificial organs and feedback mechanisms. Other methods are based on self-experimentation on volunteer students, with nerve/muscle stimulation using computer-linked experimental apparatus.

Ethical education may also involve animals, in the case where veterinary students assist experienced colleagues in clinical work with real patients; they are subjected to a broad range of clinical skills, including care for patients and respect for life - in contrast to animal experiments which teach them that animals are disposable tools. When biology students study animals in their natural habitats with non-invasive methods, they learn far more about animal behaviour than an animal experiment in the laboratory would teach them. And paralleling the dissections done by medical students on donated human bodies, veterinary and biology students can perform

Saint Mary's Students are invited to "Talk to NSSE"

MARGARET-ANNE BENNETT

Saint Mary's students are invited to "Talk to NeSSiE". Not the monster, but a monster of a survey!!

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be coming soon to the computer screens of many Saint Mary's students. The survey, which will take about 15 minutes to complete, is your opportunity to tell faculty and university administrators about your university experiences. Students from other universities and colleges across Canada and the US will also be asked the same questions – about what you have gained from your classes, how you interact with faculty and fellow students, how you spend your time during the academic year, etc. Information from NSSE is used by participating institutions to improve the campus experience for their undergraduate students. Saint Mary's will be participating for the first time this year, and our project will only be successful IF we hear from you!

The NSSE survey was developed by the Indiana University Center for Post-Secondary Research and is used annually by more than 400 universities and colleges across North America. The survey is designed to determine how well students are learning and what you get out of, and put into, your undergraduate experience.

The online surveys will be administered between late January – March to a random sampling of first-year and graduating students. All responses to the surveys will be anonymous. The Indiana University Center will select the sample, oversee the distribution of surveys,

do the data collection and analysis, and provide Saint Mary's with a comprehensive set of institutional reports by August, 2008.

Did I mention that we need your help to make this project a success?

Students will be contacted through their Saint Mary's email account. If you are contacted and invited to participate – please take a few minutes and do so! We want Saint Mary's students to fill in the survey in 'big numbers'.

You don't see anything ironic about being asked to engage in a survey that measures student engagement, do you?

Saint Mary's new 2008 – 2011 Academic Plan entitled Engaging the Vision sets out a number of priorities related specifically to student success. A high response rate from students is necessary if our NSSE data is to be useful in supporting future decision making and aiding in the development of student success initiatives. To read the Academic Plan, visit the web site of the Vice-President, Academic & Research at <http://www.smu.ca/academic/vp/plan.html>

To learn more about the National Survey of Student Engagement, visit <http://nsse.iub.edu/index.cfm>

Saint Mary's students – make your voices and opinions heard. When invited to do so – talk to NSSE!!

Margaret-Anne Bennett is the Director at the Centre for Academic & Instructional Development, her email is margaret-anne.bennett@smu.ca

ethical dissections on animals that have died from illness or injury.

The use of dead animals and live animal experiments do not teach students and trainees more about a subject than the ethical methods are capable of. However, the animal experiments and dissections are alone in imposing on students an attitude that animals' lives are not important. Do we really want to breed veterinarians, researchers and doctors who have been taught that living beings can be used and thrown away? Should animals be taken from the wild, or enclosed in tiny cages for their whole lives, never able to express their nature, just to end up on the dissection tray or prepared for invasive experiments? Published studies have shown that knowledge, skills and an ethical awareness can be gained more effectively using progressive, alternative methods. Instead of being forced to violate their ethical beliefs, students and trainees can enjoy a better learning environment without the harmful use of animals.

Possessing a policy on conscientious objection, like other universities or colleges worldwide have, will enhance the level of scholarship at SMU by improving the experience of students and opening up fields of study to those students who otherwise might have not choose to attend the university, or would avoid particular fields, regardless of their particular strengths and preferences, because they fear their beliefs will not be taken into consideration. It will also ensure SMU meets its obligations under international and national standards of human and civil rights by providing equal opportunity to all and not discriminate on the basis of beliefs. The adoption of such a policy can only be an asset to our institution.

Brittany Hilton is the President of PAWS

Olivier Berreville is the National Contact for Canada at InterNICHE

The Journal would like to make a correction regarding an article titled "Canadian Actors Give Stellar Performance [...] Juno" in the January 16th issue- this article was written by Nicole Peters and Kim Dares. In this same issue, The Journal would like to apologize for failing to credit Nick Pearce for the photos of SMU hockey games.

NEWS

The Canadian Mission in Afghanistan How is it really going??

KIM DARES

Canadian Troops have been in Afghanistan since 2003. In this time over 10 000 members of the Canadian Forces have served in the war-torn region, attempting to help liberate and bring democracy to a country that has been oppressed for years.

There have been many great changes in Afghanistan over the past four years, at least partially due to the help of UN Troops, including Canadians. These changes include basic human rights for everyone in the country, and this is particularly important for women and children who had previously faced great oppression.

Afghan citizens of age have the right to vote, and children are able to attend school regularly

The presence of Canadian troops have also led to opportunities for the development of democratic institutions such as courts, police officers, and their own free-standing army.

However, despite how wonderful these changes may be, they have not come without cost to the Canadian Forces and their families. Since the mission began 77 soldiers and one diplomat have

lost their lives in Afghanistan. In addition, thousands of soldiers have been injured, many in attacks by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED); the exact number is not known as statistics on IED Attacks are not released to the public.

The number of Afghans, and Taliban Insurgents killed in this same time frame is also not known, but is undoubtedly higher due to the volume of Taliban led suicide bombings and IED attacks in places frequented by civilians.

Recently Canada's Chief of Defence, Rick Hillier, was in Halifax speaking to military personnel and members of the public about the Canadian Mission and changes being made. One major change Hillier spoke about is the manner in which the conditions of soldiers are described. Currently all soldiers who live through an attack are described as being in 'non-life threatening' condition, which is often a very inaccurate description.

Hillier went on to say that this description can give "the wrong message, as the injuries are only 'non-life threatening' because of the incredible skill sets in the medical world that keep them alive."

Many of the soldiers described



as having 'non-life threatening' injuries spend months or years trying to recover. From now on the condition of injured soldiers will be described as 'good', 'fair', 'serious' or 'critical' in an attempt to prevent any further miscommunication on the subject.

The technology being used in Afghanistan by Canadian Forces to help minimize the danger of IED attacks has been constantly improving since the mission began. In late 2007 Canada's Military purchased 16 armoured trucks equipped with the latest technology available to detect and neutralize IEDs. In addition to the new trucks they plan to pave about

10 km of road in one of the most dangerous areas in an attempt to make the placing of IEDs nearly impossible for insurgents.

Something interesting that sets the Canadian Military apart from other militaries is the vast troop rotation it employs. Soldiers are sent from different areas of the country on a rotating schedule as opposed to a mix and match affair across the country.

Atlantic Canada just wrapped up a tour in mid-summer, sending soldiers from the Quebec area to continue the mission and they will be relieved by soldiers from Ontario in the near future.

Organ Donation Regulations Upset Many

KIM DARES

A new regulation regarding organ donation is one of the most controversial of 2008. The new regulation was implemented by Health Canada in a quiet manner in late December 2007, yet only recently did donor agencies in Canada become aware of the change.

Like blood donation, there are limitations based on who can donate organs to help protect the person set to receive the donated organ. The new regulations are being viewed as very broad, discriminatory, and homophobic.

According to the new regulations there is a more intensive

screening process, interviews with potential donors friends and family members, and questions relating to a donors sexual orientation. If the potential donor is male and has had sex with another male in the preceding five years they will not be allowed to donate. Also excluded from donating will be intravenous drug users, persons who recently spent time in jail, and anyone suspected of being infected with Hepatitis B or C, HIV, or other serious illnesses. In certain circumstances exceptions may be made depending on an individual's history.

In the past the screening process has allowed donations from

people within high risk groups if the organs test negative for disease.

There are conflicting reports with regards to how strictly the regulations will be followed; some claiming there will be little or no exceptions, and others that say the regulations have been misinterpreted and were not designed to exclude anyone.

Health Canada was unavailable for comment on the exact nature of the regulations.

Opinions are held that these new regulations trample on the human rights of many; that they target gay men in a homophobic manner rather than in a genuine concern for public safety. They

claim that ruling out all sexually active gay men out of a concern that they may have been involved in unsafe sexual practices is not fair. Gay or straight, all males and females are capable of making unsafe decisions regarding their personal sexual activities.

All donated organs are subject to screening and donors are carefully questioned. All potential donors are questioned on their sexual history and risk factor is determined on an individual basis; declining someone based on sexual orientation may only discourage many willing and safe donors.

Do Facebook Petitions Make a Difference?

KIM DARES

Chances are if you are on the social networking site Facebook, you have been invited to join a group with the word 'petition' in the title.

There are many groups out there, some dedicated to everything from societal change to modifications of Facebook programming, and others are just for fun or to gauge the interest of others. A search for groups containing the word petition has over 500 results.

It seems these groups are interwoven into the framework of Facebook. The question is, do these groups have the potential to create great change or are they just another way to voice an opinion? In search of answers The Journal spoke to several individuals to get an idea of how seriously people take these petitions.

Calum Ewing, who oversees both the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the Museum of Natural History, expressed a very positive opinion on these groups and other forms of public expression. "Facebook groups advocating a specific position or written petitions would both be equally valuable, both as real indications of engagement in our audience... they are indicating they care about what is happening at their museums...very valuable direct feedback on our exhibits or programs."

This ideology could easily be applied to

many other forums, as these groups allow people to voice an opinion and to express ideas for change or improvements in institutions.

Dan Leger, Director of News Content/Columnist at the Chronicle Herald, expressed a different opinion. "Online petitions are anonymous and require only a mouseclick. There is no way of knowing whether the petitioners actually read the story in question. So they have very little credibility." A percentage of members may have joined because their friends invited them, and haven't personally checked the group out, or because they wanted the opportunity to complain about what the group is about, not because they agreed.

Paul Fitzgerald, Public Affairs Officer for Saint Mary's, told The Journal, "Any type of concern or complaint expressed by students would be treated the same, whether it was coming from 1 or 100."

Bridget Brownlow, the Conflict Resolution Advisor at SMU, expressed a similar sentiment, that all complaints would be taken seriously no matter the number of people behind them. Bridget also said, "Solid petitions may be more effective as they often require face to face communication."

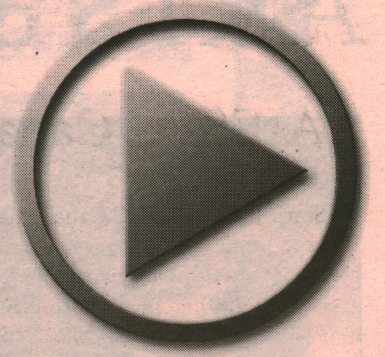
Overall the majority of people The Journal spoke to thought these 'petitions' at least allow people to express their opinions, but few were very optimistic about their effectiveness.

There is a group to stop these Facebook 'petitions', encouraging people to take action and create a real petition if they feel that strongly about something. If 1000 members of a group against Global Warming created a petition and campaigned in their communities it could potentially garner millions of signatures.

One limitation to Facebook and other online petitions is that they exclude people without internet, let alone Facebook. Therefore, using groups encouraging change is best used as a springboard for public action.

In the end, is your membership in a Facebook group going to create societal change or bring the Warped Tour to Halifax? Probably not. But is your membership going to allow you to have your voice heard? Potentially, yes. There is no conclusive answer to this question; how effective a Facebook 'petition' may be depends on several factors ranging from who it targets, the number of members it has, and what the issue is at hand.

Regardless of whether or not joining the group "If 150 000 people join I'll legally change my name to McLovin" is going to make a difference it might be worth joining just to see what happens, after all, there is a guy running around Halifax with a tattoo of Bruce Frisko on his arm.



NEWSFEED



TWO LOCAL BARS CLOSE THEIR DOORS FOR GOOD. The Thirsty Duck on Spring Garden, and The Attic on Grafton St have closed down due to low sales. Both were owned by The Grafton Connor Group.



OSAMA BIN LADEN'S SON ON MISSION FOR PEACE Omar Osama Bin Laden, 26, has spoken out about a desire for peace. He believes peace could be achieved between the al Qaeda and the West and that he may be able to make it happen.



ST THOMAS FACULTY STRIKE CONTINUES Students at Saint Thomas University will have to keep waiting for classes to resume as the Faculty Union & Administration attempt to reach an agreement. Classes have been cancelled since Jan 7th.

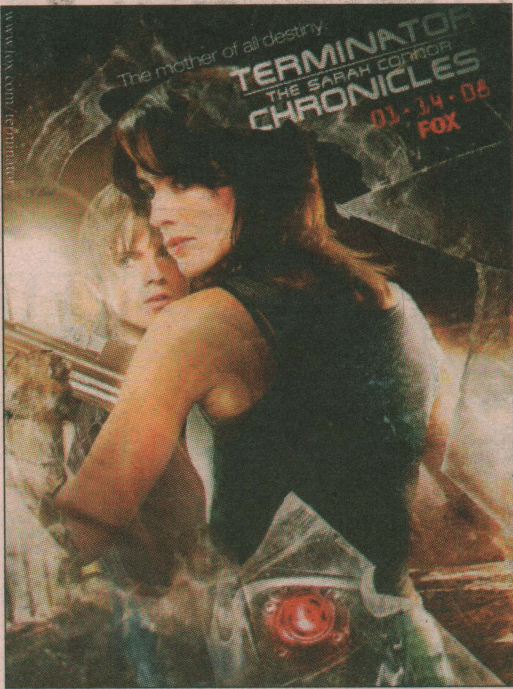


HEALTH CARE ADVICE TO BE AVAILABLE 24/7 The N.S. Government is working to set up a Nurse-call service, to help clear up congestion in doctors offices and emergency rooms. People will be able to speak directly to a nurse about any health concerns.



RENEWED CALL FOR HANDGUN BAN IN TORONTO Following two separate incidents that saw two innocent victims die at the hands of stray bullets in Toronto in the last week. Toronto Mayor, David Miller, is now calling for a ban on handguns. Thirsty Duck: <http://www.savourfoodandwine.com>, Omar Bin Laden: Associated Press, STU: <http://w3.stu.ca>, Nurse-Call: <http://www.designedtoat.com>, Handgun: www.theglobeandmail.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles
- Mondays on CTV and Fox



Cashmere Mafia - Sundays on CBC and E!



Lost - Thursdays on ABC and CTV



Eli Stone - Thursdays on ABC and CTV

2008 Preview Part 3: Television

RESSA PETERS

We all know that the Writer's Strike is quickly drying up our viewing options for the remainder of the season. Luckily for a few mid-season shows, some that might not have survived against the powerhouses in any other season, they may have a shot. A few new scripted shows are ready to debut and of course, a ton of "unscripted" reality and game shows.

Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles. Mondays, CTV and FOX. This show debuted on January 13th and judging by the first few episodes, it's actually... pretty good. Taking place after the events of the film Terminator 2: Judgement Day, kick ass mom Sarah Connor (Lena Headey, Queen Gorgo from 300) is on the run with her son John (Thomas Dekker) who's destined to save all of humanity in a few

years. With the help of a new terminator model, Cameron, (Summer Glau from Firefly) they jump ahead to 2007 to leapfrog Sarah dying of cancer in 2005. Full of action, special effects, strong characters and good acting, T:TSCC might be the breakout hit of the season.

Cashmere Mafia (Sundays on ABC and E!) and Lipstick Jungle (Thursdays on NBC starting February 7th). With Sex and The City returning as a movie, two new shows are looking to fill its absence on the small screen. I actually have a bit of a hard time telling them apart from the descriptions; both of which are about female friends trying to make it in the worlds of work and love in New York City. Sound familiar? Cashmere Mafia is produced by Darren Star who also produced Sex and Lipstick Jungle is created by Sex author Candace Bushnell, but on ABC and NBC they can't promise the raunchiness

of the original so it's hard to say how sexy and interesting they'll actually be.

New Amsterdam (Mondays on Fox starting March 10th). A supernatural detective show about a man who's been cursed with immortality; until he finds his true love and ages till death. So when he meets her, we know the shows over right? This seems like it could get really formulaic really fast.

The Return of Jezebel James (Fridays on FOX, starting March 14th). Gilmore Girls mastermind Amy Sherman-Palladino creates another show about a family of smart, chatty women. Parker Posey (Waiting for Guffman, The House of Yes) puts her comic talents to use as children's author Sarah who asks her estranged younger sister Coco (Lauren Ambrose of Six Feet Under) for a huge favour, to carry a child for her.

Eli Stone (Thursdays on ABC and CTV starting January 31st).

Johnny Lee Miller (known for his role in Trainspotting and being Mr. Angelina Jolie #1) stars as a lawyer who begins to see things. Pop star George Michael ("Faith", "Freedom 90" and 1/2 of 80's bubblegum group Wham!) is his unorthodox guardian angel who starts telling him to do bizarre things. Each episode will be named after a George Michael song.

New Reality Shows, American Gladiators (Mondays on NBC and CityTV). You might remember the original series in the early nineties and this incarnation is pretty much the same. Hosts Hulk Hogan and Laila Ali comment as people in spandex with names like "Stealth", "Titan" and "Justice" hit each other with giant nerf bats.

The Moment of Truth (Wednesdays on FOX starting January 23rd). Contestants are hooked up to a polygraph ("lie-detector") test and are asked

questions, each becoming more personal. Each question answered truthfully wins them more money. The Colombian version gained controversy and was pulled off TV when a woman admitted she once planned to hire someone to kill her husband.

Returning Shows, Battlestar Galactica (Fridays on Space starting April 4th). The fourth and final season of the acclaimed sci-fi saga continues with the voyage to find Earth and the revelation of the final cylon model.

Lost (Thursdays on CTV and ABC starting January 31st). The castaways have gotten contact with a rescue ship, but will it bring salvation or, as Ben warned them, death? Look for more mysteries to be answered and more maddening clues dropped. In addition to the signature flashbacks, flashforwards will be shown with clues to what happens if the survivors ever escape the island.

Steve Aoki's Premier Performance in Halifax Leaves the City Wanting More



AMANDA WENEK

Steve Aoki, 'Kid Millionaire', is one of the hottest DJs out of Hollywood, and he gave Halifax the dance party of a lifetime this past Wednesday night. Embassy Nightclub (formerly known as Rain) hosted the hot commodity, and he lived up to his reputation. He has an ear for pairing hot dance beats with just the right lyrical touch. He is not afraid of any genre, and the musical stylings of Wednesday night ranged from hardcore rock, to electro, to house.

DJ Johnston Farrow, the man who brings you Panic! at Tribeca and Metal Disco at the Seahorse, played right before Aoki. He never fails to deliver, and held his own considering the company he was keeping. He played a healthy mix of dance music; including M.I.A, Justice, and remixes of Tegan and Sara, and by the time he finished

with the turntables the crowd was pumped.

Aoki started the night with a crowd pleaser, a song from his new album called 'Pillowface'. It starts with a fast guitar riff repeating itself, only to meld into something softer until it breaks out into hardcore screamo lyrics.

He then went into a string of house/ techno songs, including ones by Justice and Daft Punk. The entire crowd was roaring right from the start and the dancefloor was packed. There were screaming girls everywhere, and even the guys were chanting "Aoki" over and over again. With the excitement of the first couple of songs the dance floor felt more like an Alexisonfire mosh pit; everyone was fighting for the coveted space right up front, trying to get a good look of one of the most sought after DJs in the country.

He played for two and a half hours, and

considering the mere \$10 cover charge this was most generous of him. He played typical crowd favorites such as Rage Against the Machine, Bloc Party, Uffie, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Arcade Fire, all with his own spin on it, and threw in many of his own singles as well. Fans even got to hear the premiere of his newest single; "This is my very first time playing this song Halifax!" he yelled into the mic.

Aoki plays an indie showcase at Cine-space in LA on Tuesday nights, and he also regularly plays at Hollywood's LAX and NYC's Marquee. He has travelled all over the world, going as far as London and Japan and he has his own independent record label, Dim Mak, which is home to Bloc Party, Pony Up, and Pretty Girls Make Graves, to name a few.

To hear a sampling of his music go to www.myspace.com/steveaoki



WEDNESDAY

Get Up! DJ Gordski and Nigel Lutes at The Marquee, \$4, free for students/bar staff.

Dead Pinkertons, Skullet, Something Delicious, and The Visitation at Reflections, 10:30pm, \$4

THURSDAY

The Mellotones at The Seahorse, 9pm, \$5.

Rambo marathon! The trilogy of old films (with intermissions) and the new film premiere at midnight, Bayers Lake cinema, 6:30pm, \$20.

FRIDAY

Their Majesties, The Stance, The Famous Lovers (Montreal) and The Danks (PEI), at Gus' Pub, 10pm, \$5

Autograph session with Zakk Wyld at MusicStop, 3pm, wristbands for first 150 people.

SATURDAY

Stolen Minks, Windom Earle and Wordburglar at The Seahorse

Slowcoaster with special guests: Hey Ocean at The Marquee, 10pm, \$12 advance or \$15 Door.

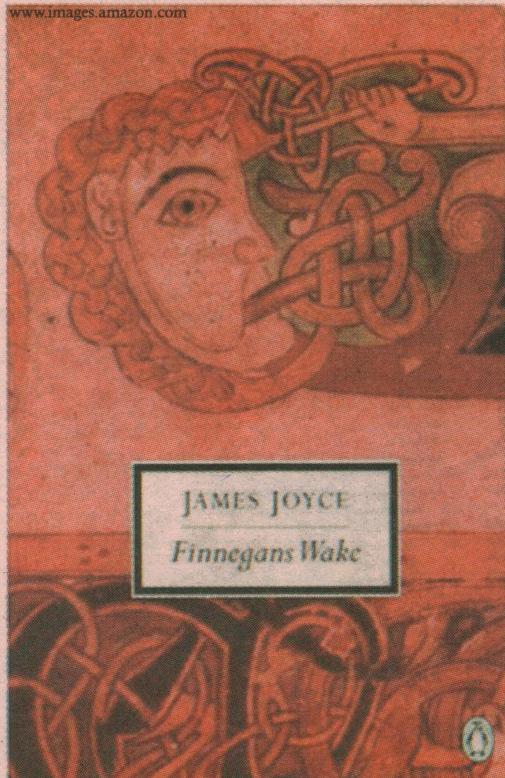
SUNDAY

Annual Halfway to Pride Night at Reflections featuring Ms. Reflections performers. 10pm, \$5.

The Metric System at Tribeca, \$5.

The Silence after Finnegans Wake

Part 1: Fragment on History, the Archetype, Transcendence of Plot, Language



JAMES C. O'BRIEN

It is a terrible beauty to witness the death of God. I can only imagine the primal shrillness felt by bleakened blind Man who felt the conquering of the Titan Chaos just before the Promethean light at the Dawn of Gods. And out from that Storm of Creation rose the Animal who felt and was stained by a vulgar lusty necrophilia at the Crucifixion. Proletariat soldiers, slaves and tax payers who summoned up the courage to hand the King a sweat soaked Magna Carta and cowered under the Crown until the geeks fed on Charles the First. Words. Words that run rampant and haphazard like foud du Francais. Revolutions lasted, Dictators rise, Democracies failed, bought, sold and repackaged: Words

The aim of this multipart series is to discuss James Joyce's "novel" Finnegans Wake, as a living artifact from the end of literature and its role as the death rattle of language. Make no mistake, Finnegans Wake is the last book, there is nothing left to progress from or build-on from within the "novel". The book lays bare what language is, simultaneously showing where it came from and where its going.

The idea of a linear development and progression, in an historic as well as an artistic sense, has become controversial and contrary to postmodern thought. Linear development calls forth an assumption that things are getting better, that our present

efforts are toward improving the efforts of the past- the torch of progress is passed forward toward Utopia. It's largely a modernist perception, symptomatic of the general arrogance surrounding a society that had just developed flight, film, gramophone and radio- unwittingly progressing toward two World Wars, fascism and the atomic bomb. Though the Modernist's optimistic historical outlook was largely reactionary to stuffy, elitist Victorian sentiments that dismissed all new work as 'grotesque' and inferior to the masterful manuscript relics from the Greeks to Shakespeare. Yet even though there's this contrary sentiment of deprogression, the concept they share is a sense of a linear passage of time, that History is a plotted story with a beginning, middle and end- And once you make history linear, you remove its immediacy and it loses the focus and depth of a human experience and becomes another myth.

Prior to Wake, Joyce wrote Ulysses. In Ulysses, Joyce transcends plot and ideas of linear passage inherent within history. Within this novel, the whole of human history and myth is embodied by the Irish working class and passes through a single day. Upon reading Joyce, Joseph Cambell furthered Joyce's plot-transcendence and developed a boiling down of the complex historical/mythological/linear history. He found repetitions in this story, in the myths of past and present cultures, known as Archetypes.

Archetypes, to put it glibly, are the stories and characters that turn up in all myths/histories of different cultures. By paring down history to Archetypes, history becomes a series of symbols. You can now correspond historical events and figures with Archetypes and remove them from their religious/political/racial connotation. For example, if you label Louis Riel as an Archetypal Hero, you remove him from his race and his country. He loses his identity as a real person and becomes just another name for an Abstract, an Abstract which wears the faces of many men, women and gods alike. This is why in Ulysses, Leopold Bloom can be every Jew and conquered Irishmen, therefore the history of Jewish and Irish alienation runs through him and his actions- Not within the literal linear centuries of which they actually occurred but within a non-linear Archetypal 'day' in which the novel is set. The storyteller is therefore limited with what he can tell- all his characters and plots just a rehash of the same old Archetypes. There are no

'new' characters, it's all an exploration of the same terrain- Ulysses is the last story because it is all stories.

As Ulysses transcends plot, so does Wake transcend language. Wake is not to be read like Ulysses (which was, in part about all stories) but is to be read like a dictionary. Wake is a book about words, though he is not writing about words in the fixed sense of 'meanings' and 'grammar' but in the murky looseness from which spake they. Though space permits me from using any examples, I can still summarize the method of composition where he combines words to create puns. For example, 'orgasm' with 'chasm' to produce 'orchasm', a word which juxtaposes two disparate images and emotions to produce a (w)holy new word, a holey new feeling- presented with pertinent association to other new words preceding and receding from each other: "Here [in the Wake] words are not polite contortions of twentieth-century printer's ink," Samuel Beckett wrote, "they are alive. They elbow their way on to the page and glow and blaze and fade and disappear."

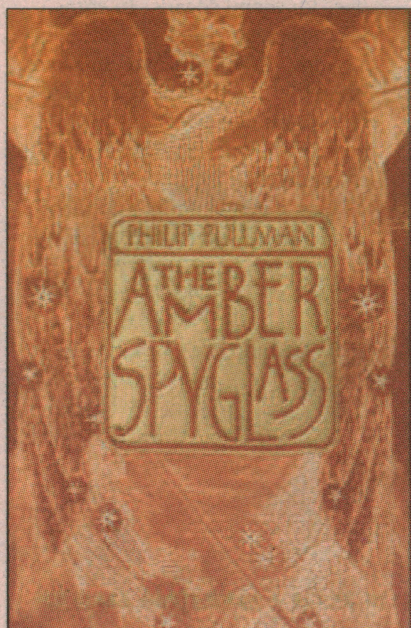
And that's the very spirit of Wake and the Word, that language is not fixed, it churns and writhes on the page, the author highlights 'chasm' in the dictionary and presents Chasm as a character and makes Chasm speak, not fictionally or metaphorically but a literal communication from this word, o rchasm. The text reveals how words are formed, not through placid theory but in the great rush and immediacy of application.

Form is content, gleam understanding of the Word from words themselves, "the medium is the message" as McLuhan would say. Now broaden your scope, juxtapose all words from all languages to create a text whereby any subjective reading reveals any sentence, any statement- you now have before you every statement from a primordial shapeshifter, Language, the very subject of the Wake, manifested in its entirety between its covers. [...]

Note: when the author presented his strange manuscript to this publication, he was confronted with space problems that would force him to present his thoughts within the framework of 900 word episodes. This proved an insurmountable difficulty for him. His solution was to slash the essay arbitrarily into a series of fragments, creating a strange effect of incompleteness and abruptness and though the author finds this aesthetically pleasing and urges you to enjoy this series as fragments, we urge you to read the essay in its entirety at www.smujournal.ca for better comprehension of his criticism.

Book Review

His Dark materials Book III: The Amber Spyglass by Phillip Pullman



DAWN DAVIS

Since I started writing this column, I became highly aware how unprofessional it would be for me to spend my reading time on series'. Although

for himself by taking on topics such as a pair of very gay angels which were expelled from heaven. Will and Lyra delve into the world of the dead to change what had always been. And Lord Asriel continues with

the amount of amazing books out there blow my mind, so plenty of them are one of many. Especially when you're a big fantasy fan - like me - series make up a lot of the genre. (Not quite so much as Mystery, but it's still quite a bit.) So His Dark Materials was my step out into the series world with one of the highly publicised movie releases of 2007. Although it is difficult to really summarize what happens in The Amber Spyglass without spoiling anything, Pullman definitely had ambition with his final installment. He opened doors

his deliberate attack on what the people in his world call "The Authority", his intent to create a "Republic of Heaven" as opposed to the previously reigning Kingdom. Previously Pullman's attack on the church was quite subtle, but with The Amber Spyglass, it becomes perfectly clear.

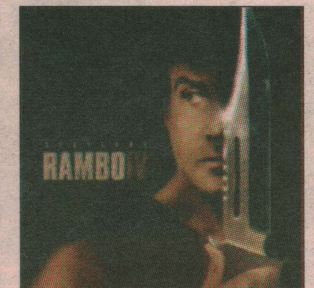
One of the prevalent characters in The Amber Spyglass became Dr. Mary Malone. This woman was once a Nun who was gifted at physics and eventually dropped her life's work and turned to science. Her story in particular is a direct attack on the Church, but Pullman does not ever reject the existence of God, in fact he implies it. But instead of the Church, he encourages a personal spirituality, and tells us to do good for the sake of doing good, and no matter how you try to justify something bad, it is still bad. All of the morals are still there. The Amber Spyglass is filled to the brim with Pullman's

excellent writing, and brings the trilogy to a comfortable close after finally telling us the secret that separates innocence and experience. The ending is sweet and nostalgic, but I think it would be better felt by those between 12 and 14 or adults who have kids that age. The size of the book and the amount of ground to cover must have been difficult for him. Many stories were going on at once and as soon as you grew interested in one, the next chapter would move you into another. Although a good book, there were a few times that I wanted to put it down and forget about it. As I have said before, this book and the series as a whole definitely deserve the awards they have received. Of course after finishing I cannot blame the church for looking down on a very blatant attack. However, if you like that kind of thing, you owe it to yourself to read this series.

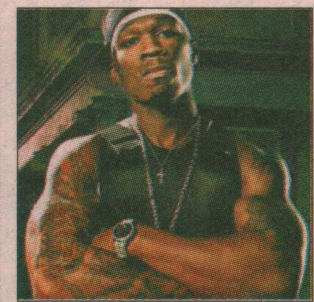
Bite Sized Entertainment



New CDs Out This Week:
666 by Billy Talent, Pocketful of Sunshine by Natasha Bedingfield, Jukebox by Cat Power, Eels Useless Trinkets by Eels



New Movies Out This Week:
Rambo, Meet the Spartans, How She Move, They Wait and Untraceable.



50 gets kids reading and...
Rapper 50 Cent wants to expand his business ventures. He wants to write several 'hip hop novellas' with titles like "The Ski Mask Way" and "Death Before Dishonor", and create a line of "magic stick" condoms to promote HIV awareness.



TV Geek's pick of the week.
Gossip Girl. Sunday at 7pm on CTV (Regular time slot on Tuesday's at 8pm) - If you've been meaning to catch this O.C. esque drama but haven't found it check out the re-airing of the pilot episode.



YouTube of the week.
"Rodney MacDonald Top 10 to David Letterman"
Inspired by Ellen Page's praise, our Premier gives Dave 10 reasons to visit our fair province. And plays the fiddle!

Photo Credits: Rambo- www.criticsrant.com, Billy Talent- www.wikipedia.com, 50 Cent- www.mybuddieslive.com, Gossip Girl- <http://amysrobot.com>, Rodney MacDonald- www.coreconference.com

FEATURES

Getting High-Brow on the Drug Debate

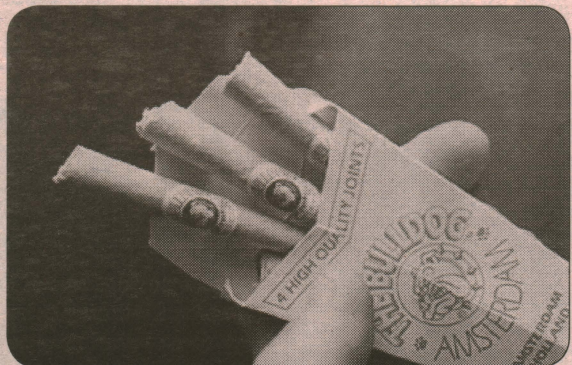
ERIN STORER

To claim that the government is enforcing arbitrary laws by allowing cigarettes and alcohol to be legal while at the same time prohibiting other drugs such as marijuana and heroine is an argument that has not received proper inspection. To call this prohibition "unnecessary political coercion" implies the government is acting under illegitimate means. Is it not their responsibility to involve themselves in issues that create areas of social unrest? In a democratic system it is their goal to restore and maintain order. Any area of public conflict will draw

political attention, and rightfully so. This is a market that the Canadian government stands to make a considerable profit from should they decide to re-evaluate their current legal perspective. Shouldn't they then be persuading us to take drugs? Is it possible that there are some differences between those substances that are legal and those that are not?

What must be considered is the severity of these substances and the effect they have on the average citizen. I would have to argue that the addictive quality of these drugs is an important point that cannot be ignored. Although cigarettes and alcohol also possess these qualities, the duration of time needed to reach the point of addiction is by no means comparable to drugs such as heroin that can hook a user the first time. I would also feel compelled to point out

that once addicted, you would not be living "the good life." I am not interested in a discussion regarding the definition of the word 'good' and how it relates to an individual's life. I can however, honestly say, with experience that the life of a user is hardly a pursuit of free will. It is an example of coercion much



Packages of spliffs are readily available at shops in Amsterdam but not here. Should they be?

more severe than any provided by the government. If we make these drugs legal how will we enforce a limit? Will RCMP have to perform blood tests in the backs of their cars or will we just assume that if an individual is unconscious and not breathing they have consumed over the limit? I understand that drug use is a reality and laws are not stopping anybody. But they are a much needed crutch providing the courts the support they need to intervene in the lives of criminals and addicts that are on a path of self destruction. It would be ignorant to assume that our current laws don't at least hinder the operation. If marijuana, heroin and cocaine were socially accepted commodities, readily available at every corner store, then it would be naive to think that drug use wouldn't increase... even just a little bit. The

only reason an addict doesn't get their fix is because their supplier doesn't have any. No money? No problem. In a society where drugs are legal you can just rob the nearest convenience store to get whatever you want. A decrease in crime as a result of more lenient drug laws is an idea that is purely speculation. As much as I would like to think there is one big fat solution that would put an end to innocent deaths, assaults and rapes, I unfortunately cannot support the theory that legalizing drugs will achieve this. Have you considered all of those drug users no longer having to hide their addictions? Would this not promote more public acceptance of this activity? These drugs are known to create feelings of intense euphoria, coupled with the knowledge that there is no longer a punishment associated with their consumption and the actions of these individuals could reflect a sense of invincibility. They may be uncontrollable and terrifyingly unpredictable. But this is purely speculation as well. The truth is that if I woke up tomorrow and the government had legalized drugs; gangs would still be committing crimes and innocent people would still be dying. Call me a cynic, but I don't doubt for a second that people will find something to fight about. This lack of drug related crimes would be swallowed up by an equally unsettling topic for discussion.

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A decrease in crime as a result of more lenient drug laws is an idea that is purely speculation. As much as I would like to think there is one big fat solution that would put an end to innocent deaths, assaults and rapes, I unfortunately cannot support the theory that legalizing drugs will achieve this. Have you considered all of those drug users no longer having to hide their addictions? Would this not promote more public acceptance of this

activity? These drugs are known to create feelings of intense euphoria, coupled with the knowledge that there is no longer a punishment associated with their consumption and the actions of these individuals could reflect a sense of invincibility. They may be uncontrollable and terrifyingly unpredictable. But this is purely speculation as well. The truth is that if I woke up tomorrow and the government had legalized drugs; gangs would still be committing crimes and innocent people would still be dying. Call me a cynic, but I don't doubt for a second that people will find something to fight about. This lack of drug related crimes would be swallowed up by an equally unsettling topic for discussion.

I do agree that limited drug use to aid in relaxation or the expansion of one's mind can be positive but how could we expect citizens to consume drugs in moderation when we can't even be sure they won't have fast food everyday for lunch? Our society cannot withstand such an extremely liberal mentality. This is a difficult topic with any number of possible outcomes. Maybe changes do have to be made to our current drug enforcement laws but my recommendation would be to proceed with caution.

Religion is Like the Music of Céline Dion

MARK MERCER
The Cranky Professor

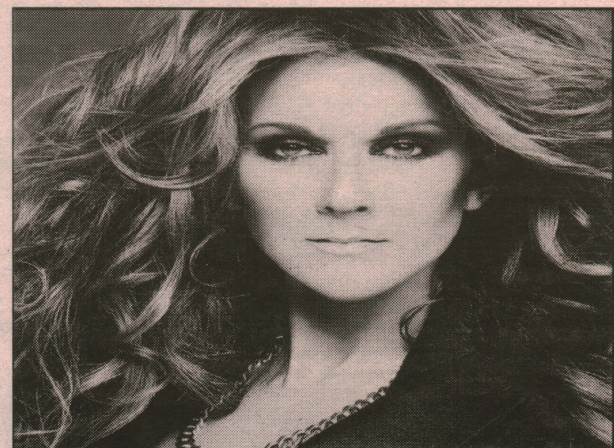
Céline Dion's music is hard to listen to. It's unimaginative and trite. It trades exclusively in melody and large emotions, but the melodies are banal and the emotions maudlin or hysterical.

Lots of people enjoy Céline Dion's music. They enjoy crying to it or exalting along with it. They buy Mme. Dion's records and attend her concerts. Céline Dion's music brings much happiness to their lives.

Religious beliefs cannot be sustained by argument. "God understands me and loves me"; "Whatever happens, I am safe in God's hands"; "The universe is unfolding as it should, according to God's plan." No argument in favour of any of these statements goes even a millimetre toward showing that statement to be true. It's not simply that arguments in favour of God's existence are inconclusive—it's that they don't even get off the ground. (Any introduction to philosophy text will explain why.) To be religious is to hold beliefs in violation of

in Halifax. (The fault here, of course, is Mme. Dion's; it does not belong to those who publicly expressed their opinion of Mme. Dion's music.) I hope that when I talk music my criticisms and commendations, if sound, will affect people and alter their tastes, though I realize this hope is vain. But I wouldn't dream of imposing my taste by force.

I would like for people to give up their religions and for religion to disappear. To be religious is to believe against your best standards for belief. It is to hold one's identity hostage to fantasies. It is to try to satisfy one's needs for belonging or purpose by denying the sufficiency of one's life here and now. It is to hold oneself answerable to traditions or authorities beyond oneself. To be without religion, on the other hand, is to attempt to see things just the way they are. It's to find one's identity in realities, not in mythologies. It is to pursue contentment entirely in the connections and purposes one forges with friends, neighbours, and colleagues. It is to hold oneself answerable only to oneself and



Jesus Christ! Could Celine and Atheism be inextricably linked?

one's best standards of credibility.

Actually, it is worse than that. God, to be a fit object of worship, must be the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all that exists. To fulfill these functions, God must be omniscient, omnipotent, and perfectly loving and perfectly just. But no being could be either omniscient or omnipotent, as the concepts of omniscience and omnipotence are internally inconsistent. Moreover, no being perfectly loving or perfectly just capable of creating a universe like this one, a universe marked by unmerited and unredeemed suffering.

Lots of people are happy to have religious beliefs. They take inspiration or solace in their belief that God understands them and loves them, that whatever happens they are safe in God's hands, that they are playing their role, however humble, within God's magnificent plan. Their religion brings much happiness to their lives.

I love to talk music. I love to trade judgements of taste and give and receive arguments for and against the merits of musicians and pieces of music. But though I'm happy to criticise Céline Dion's music and to disparage the taste some people have for it, I would never for the life of me attempt to prevent Mme. Dion from singing or a fan from listening. Heaven forbid! I'm sad for those people whose hopes were dashed when Mme. Dion announced she wouldn't accept an invitation to perform

to one's ideals. Atheism is much superior to religion.

I would never for the life of me attempt to prevent a person from practicing religion. I wouldn't — up to a limit, at least — attempt to prevent a person from raising their children within a religion, sad as I'm made by the thought of a child's head being stuffed with mush and nonsense, with fears, and with emotional needs for transcendence. I hope that sound arguments against religion find their mark and alter people's lives. But I expect that religion will continue to darken lives for many decades to come, if not forever.

Though I stand against religion, I insist that the fight be fair on both sides, conducted without force but only through argument and example.

Some people think argument and example are modes of force. They would have those who criticise Céline Dion or religion speak their piece far from the fans of Mme. Dion or far from the faithful. Either that or be silent. Hearing criticism can hurt a person's feelings and disrupt her projects; people need protection from such assault. Here I do not hesitate to use the force of politics, economics, and law to preserve and extend freedom of expression, including the freedom to criticise when criticism hurts and disrupts. Creating and maintaining an open society is worth using force.

Why be an atheist? Well, atheism is to religion as the Velvet Underground is to Céline Dion.

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LET'S GET BAKED

WITH MAT AND DAVE

This lovely muffin recipe was a bit of an improvised creation to compliment worldly Can-Am fast-folk legend Eugene Ripper's impromptu style. These muffins make every muffin you have ever seen in the past look ridiculous. These are an upgraded version of the muffin, they are Muffins 3.0; they're quicker, tastier and shinier! Check out Eugene Ripper's "Fast Folk Underground 2.0" and tune in to Lets Get Baked so that you can hear Halifax's top rated vegan baking radio show. It's a Muffin Party you can't afford to miss!!!

Ingredients:

1/2 cup of Chopped dates	Juice of half an orange
2/3 cup maple syrup	2 egg equivalent (flax seed meal)
1/3 cup shredded coconut	1/3 cup margarine
1/3 cup crushed almonds	1/3 cup almond milk
1 tsp baking powder	1/3 cup of oil
3 cups flour	1/3 cup vanilla soy yogurt
1 tsp baking soda	1 pinch of salt
zest of 1 lemon	3 generous pinches cinnamon
zest of 1 orange	3 stingy pinches of cloves

Directions:

Cream the maple syrup, margarine, almond milk, flax meal, oil and yogurt together in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, mix the dry ingredients together. Combine the contents of the two bowls, and add in the lemon and orange rind, crushed almonds, dates, orange juice and coconut. Then mix it all together until it is "just mixed". Grease up your muffin tins and pour in the batter, top each muffin with a whole almond. Bake them up at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Eat them up, YUM!




Eugene Ripper, contrary to his facial expression, just adores these muffins



THE JOURNAL PRESENTS T&A ASKS....

Q & A with Tom & Amanda

“How do you deal with the cold months of winter?”




BEN LEMIEUX
3RD YEAR GEOGRAPHY

“I try to run outside in my underwear as often as possible. There’s a lot of animals that live outside in the cold, it’s nice to get in touch with nature.”



LAURA DUNFORD
2ND YEAR IDS & REL.

“I turn my heat up as much as I can afford to.”



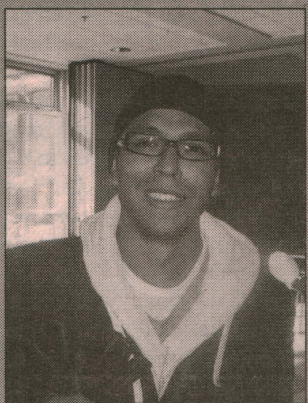
BRITTANY WEBB
4TH YEAR COMMERCE

“I like winter, but I don’t know... I drink more?”



KEISHA ARCHIBALD
4TH YEAR COMP. SCI.

“I actually like the winter, you can always just put on extra clothes. I still stay active doing intramurals, but no outdoor sports! It’s too cold.”



JUAN C. MENDOZA
3RD YEAR ENGINEERING

“I went somewhere warm! I went to visit my family in Colombia.”



SARAH WESTON
3RD YEAR GEOGRAPHY

“Hot buttered rum; it makes you weatherproof, then you can go play outside.”

Photos courtesy of Amanda Wenek

SMUDOKU

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LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION

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1	9	7	4	6	3	2	8	5
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5	3	2	8	9	1	6	7	4
4	1	6	3	8	9	5	2	7
3	5	9	2	1	7	4	6	8
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HOT OR NOT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue boxes • The Master Cleanse • Sundance Film Festival • SMUSA’s Winter Ball • Camel spins • 27 Dresses • One-piece snow suits • The Dodgeball tournament • Alcohol and recreational drug use • Being Miserable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue balls • Organic, Grade B maple syrup • Utah • Going from classy to trashy • Camel toe • Being left at the altar • Unitards • Video game tournaments • ‘Hey Paula’ • Looking Miserable |
|--|---|

G SPOT

One Night in Halifax

SS RANDY BLUE

“My boyfriend really deserves a great present this valentine’s day so I agreed to make an intimate movie with him. Can you suggest ways to make it sexy and not trashy like the ones done by Paris Hilton?”
- Eager to Please

So, you want to make an awesome gift for your lover and have decided to flaunt your amateur cinematography skills. There are lots of ways to show off your love than

just leaking a sleazy night-vision video of yourself on all fours to the internet. First off, try to find a decent and romantic locale to shoot your home movie. If you choose a dirty and sleazy location to film then you’re going to end up with a sleazy ‘Motel 6’ video. No one wants to watch a video filmed from the fire stairwell on the ninth floor of Loyola, likewise, the McNally Main elevator does not provide the steamiest of locations.

Once you have found a classy location and have dressed it up a little (lace curtains and silky satin sheets and velour pillows can dress

up the drabest dorm room) you need to find a sexy and scandalous outfit to wear. Perhaps a skimpy corset or a pair of revealing ass-less chaps. If you’re on a tight budget then you could probably make do with a simple black thong from Wal-Mart.

Now that you have a nice location and a scandalous outfit you need to grab your man and make some sweet cinematic love. Be sure to do all those extra tricks and moves you normally save for special occasions. The better the show you put on, the better and hotter the movie will become. No one

wants to see a woman just lying on a bed doing absolutely nothing. If they did then the pornography industry wouldn’t be what it is today.

Be sure that when you and your boyfriend are done you shut that camera off before you start to cuddle. Once you start cuddling you may forget to shut off the camera and start to capture life’s “not so pleasant” after sex moments and sounds. These won’t add any romantic value to your short film.

So now that you’ve made your movie and have it all edited the way you like it and wrapped in a very decorative bow you should de-

lete every other copy of the movie. You never know when your mother may visit and need to check her e-mail only to stumble across what you’ve been doing this last semester of school. Here’s hoping your One Night in Halifax doesn’t end up on every primetime celebrity gossip show in the years to come.

Until next week everyone, keep it safe and keep it wrapped. If you have questions then send them in to smu.gspot@gmail.com

BUSINESS

What's The Big Idea? The ACE Society Reveals its Master Plan

ANDREW PARLEE

If you've looked around campus recently you've probably noticed some peculiar things popping up here and there. A random table one day, a flare up of posters on the boards, or a workshop. The ACE Society has been quietly and discreetly trying to get the word out that it wants to give away thousands of dollars to SMU students. They haven't stated their motives behind it all, but I'll make an educated guess about why they would do such a thing.

It's really quite ingenious of them to throw out a few grand in order to accomplish their mandate. I mean, I'm quite sure that there is no other society on campus that gives away money. Most of them take in membership fees and charge students to go on brewery tours and what not. If you think about it, what ACE is doing makes a lot of sense.

They claim that they have this competition called "What's The Big Idea?". Their posters say things like "Win Thousands of Dollars". What society, in their right mind, would make such a claim? If you go to their website, you can see it all for yourself. Just go to www.whatsthebigidea.ca.

Just about every week, you'll see this guy standing at an "ACE table" in the Loyola Colonnade area. He'll be handing out pieces of paper that tell people to sign up

for the competition and check out the workshops. And that's another thing; they have these very interesting workshops. ACE supposedly brings in these consultants to teach students. What society would hire real consultants to come to SMU? Don't consultants charge like \$200 an hour to give advice? I tried to listen in on one of these workshops. I think it was last Friday afternoon. The consultant was talking about "how to make money". Supposedly if you have a great idea and you do a little planning (I think they call it a business plan) you can make some good money. The interesting thing about it was that she claimed that one doesn't have to be a business student to write a business plan or enter the competition. She said that some of the greatest ideas come from science and arts students.

I actually got so curious this week that I decided that I would jump the guy at the ACE table as soon as he packed up his table to leave. On Monday, as I was going to my IDS course, I noticed that he was in Loyola at his usual spot near Tim Horton's. In class, as I was listening to the prof drone on about NGO's, I formulated a plan about how I was going to force him to tell me the society's secret intentions. I decided that my course of action would be to follow him until he walked to a more secluded area. Then I could corner him and force him to reveal ACE's

secret plans.

As soon as class ended, I bought a coffee and sat at a table about thirty feet away from my target. As soon as the traffic slowed down, he shut down his laptop and started to pack up just as I had predicted. When he started to walk away from Tim's I waited a couple of seconds and then started to trail him. He walked out of Loyola, past the football field, and then turned down the right fork in the path towards the SUB. I jogged up to the SUB door so that I wouldn't lose him inside the building. He waved to the girl at the desk and headed straight for the elevators. I followed him into the elevator while carefully keeping my head down while I went to the opposite corner of the lift. He suddenly turned and looked straight at me. My heart jumped. I thought to myself, "he knows I'm following him". The ACE guy says "what floor do you want?" "Oh, same one as you" I said. Looking up at the display panel, I see that he is going to the 5th floor. That makes sense I thought, most of the societies have offices on that floor. When we get to the fifth floor, he walks to the right and then goes down the first hall to the left and stops in front of the 2nd office on the left. I make a mental note, "the office is right beside the crazy AIESEC society's office. Before I know what to do he's locking the door and walking towards me. I'm

about to open my mouth, but he beats me to it. He says, "Can I help you?" Caught off guard, I stammer, "I'm here to talk to you". To make a long story short, I get all the information from him without being suspended from school.

First off, ACE stands for Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship. Once you know this, everything makes sense. Since the society is all about entrepreneurship, it's only natural for them to be hosting a competition called the What's the Big Idea Concept Competition. They basically want to teach students about entrepreneurship and give them the tools that they need to make their dreams come true. I don't know about you, but my dream is to have an awesome retail store where all my buddies could hang out and buy the stuff that they really want.

The guy, apparently the president of ACE, told me that he thought that I have what it takes to enter the contest. He said that the first thing that I should do is go to the website and register. It wouldn't obligate me to do anything, but at least I'd be kept up to date on what was going on. The next step is to print out the concept form. This would help me easily write down my business idea. He said that I might not be able to get a full fledged business plan completed before the deadline unless I was able to commit a full day to write it. Once I finished

that, he said that it was crucial to hand in or email my idea to ACE or the SMUBDC (Saint Mary's Business Development Centre). He gave me his email address (acesmu@gmail.com) and said that it would probably be a good idea to submit a hard copy to SB 227. The second alternative was to deliver it to the SMUBDC's office at 1546 Barrington before Monday, January 28.

He also told me about something called the What's The Big Idea Business Pitch (on Feb 8). Basically, all you have to do is give a convincing 60 second spiel about your business idea. I think he said that the prize for best pitch was \$1000. I don't think I could make that much at my current job in one month, let alone one minute.

By this time, I had heard more than I could handle and just wanted to get out of the SUB. The ACE guy wouldn't me go though. He said that the only way that I could be free was if I promised to go to ACE's WTBI Breakfast Gala on February 13th. He claimed that there was no breakfast like it. Not even the AIESEC breakfast could compare. He went on about all the networking opportunities, the food, and the awesome entertainment. So hey, I survived to tell you about my encounter with the ACE type.

CEED Networking Event

BRYAN CHING

Most students at SMU who possess an entrepreneurial mindset would have heard about the ACE Society at SMU. They would have heard of or met employees from the various organizations that specifically exist to help entrepreneurs start and run their own businesses. CEED (Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development) is one of these organizations which provide the help and the support that is needed for anyone who wants to start a business.

They have designed many different programs that are specifically targeted towards the young entrepreneur. They even have a special six month interest free loan designed for students, so they can start up a small business during the summer. This is great news for a student because it means that they can actually create their own job instead of having to find a company to work for. If the student does well, they are actually eligible to receive 25% of the loan back in addition to keeping all their profits. It is an amazing deal for students who would much rather work for themselves then work for an employer.

I received an invitation to attend CEED's Entrepreneurial Networking Event last Thursday and decided that I should go and get the inside scoop. The venue was fabulous. CEED recently renovated their office, so that they would have a multi-purpose room to hold such events. At this event I was able to meet many of the staff at CEED and hear more about the programs that they offer. I was also able to talk to many different entrepreneurs about their experiences in starting a company and the plans that they have for growth and expansion. For example, I met a man who originally started his business selling items on eBay. The business eventually grew into a new store that was just opened on Dresden's Row. These inspirational stories help to motivate potential new entrepreneurs, namely me, to start thinking more about a future life that possibly include a business brad.leblanc@engagingentertainment.ca start-up. It is exciting to think about the new experiences that this would entail. For those of you who missed this networking event, CEED is considering the idea of putting banner ads on SMU's TV screens around campus. Keep your eyes peeled.

Ethics in Business: Series of Lectures

CCEPA (The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs) has partnered with the Centre for Spirituality and the Workplace to present the "Ethics in Business Series".

This series features keynote speakers presenting views and information on corporate social

responsibility, sustainability, and accountability.

This Wednesday, Jan 23rd, they will be presenting "The Ethical Culture: Taking Compliance to The Next Level" with keynote speaker John Dalla Costa, the founding director of the Centre

for Ethical Orientation.

This presentation will be held in the Scotia Bank Theater on campus from 7pm-8:30pm. Admission is free. For more information contact CCEPA at 428-4731 or info@ccepa.ca

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CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 8/21-8/16. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting at SMU Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 PM in LOYOLA Room 176.

Interviewing Friday February 8th from 10-3 at Summer Employment Fair at DAL

Visit www.camptowanda.com Staff Experience for application. Other questions??? email staff@camptowanda.com or call 800 923-2267.

Check Out SMUtube!
www.smutube.ca



SPORTS

Women's Team Goes Down Fighting Hard

ROBBIE NAUFFTS

The Huskies started out strong on Saturday night, not giving in and keeping up with UNB but their hard work and determination couldn't open up the one point lead with a minute left.

SMU started out lagging behind UNB for the first half but never sinking below a seven point trail. They moved the ball around, had some great shot opportunities that just would not drop in the basket. The frustration was building after the third quarter as the teams went back and forth with the lead before the SMU girls would get on top and stay there. But with basketball one minute can be a lifetime when the game is that close.

With seconds left Saint Mary's

received a few fouls that would bite them as foul shots finished them off 66-59. It was a heart breaking game as the women couldn't get a clear shot at the basket with only two minutes left and the crowd sat moaning every time a shot bounced out; which was frequent Saturday night.

Sunday afternoon caught the players' off-guard as PEI finished on top 65-44 adding a fifth game to the losing streak. SMU seemed to be a worn out as PEI managed to move the ball around more on the court.

One SMU player who didn't want to be named was frustrated as she tried to make sense of the loss.

"I don't know what happened. One minute, we're only down by one point and next thing I look up

and it's a twenty point difference. We weren't on top of our game at all and not working together. This losing streak isn't helping our confidence at all."

After Sunday's game several fans were trying to inspire the team telling them it was an off game and that they will bounce back. One player tried to sound confident about beating Cape Breton at home but her voice lacked confidence. Another player laughed nervously at the comment and stated that she was "not looking forward to the rest of the season."

Is there a lack of confidence keeping the team back? The talent is there to win as they forced UNB around the court Saturday night and kept the pressure on until the buzzer. Earlier this season with the

bleachers filled and people fighting for standing room the team started out strong and kept St FX at bay until the 70-66 finish. The team has the drive and determination to win but maybe the player I spoke with is right: the girls are just not meshing well on the court but that's not how it looked from court side to the fans. There is a little bit of individual play going on before the girls pass the ball around for some baskets but that is not different from UNB's game play.

One noticeable change however is at the home games with the drop in attendance in the stands. Could this be another challenge facing the team, a lack of support at home court? The parents in the crowd wouldn't agree but the possibility is there. Only a handful of students

had shown up and cheered until the buzzer.

This is the teams' second five game losing streak this season. The women's team has only eight regular season games left and currently sits in last place in the standings with two wins and ten losses. SMU's two wins have been at home this year with one of the wins being against the team they face next, St FX on January 26th.

The Huskies return to The Tower against Memorial February 9th and need your support. Remember that your Student ID gets you into all Huskies home games for free and if you need plans for a night out, or a break from studying, get out to the Tower and cheer on the home team! Those are your school colours they are wearing!

Huskies Take Down PEI 88-85



www.smuhuskies.ca

ROBBIE NAUFFTS

With two big wins this weekend at home, the Men's Basketball team slides into third place ahead of St. FX and only two points behind Acadia.

Opening the weekend with a strong 90-60 win against UNB the Huskies carried the fire over to Sunday afternoon with a 88 to 85 win against UPEI.

The Huskies opened up strong with several drives to the net with successful lay-ups and two-pointers as UPEI struggled to move the ball around the court and SMU stealing some passes. Mark McLaughlin would open up the game with three two-point baskets before UPEI would react with some baskets of their own. SMU continued dominating as Mark Ross would receive

a brilliant low-pass and lay-up a clean two-pointer. The Huskies would continue moving through the Panthers until halftime.

When the two teams came back out on the court the Panthers

would look at the scoreboard and start to overpower the Pack as the Huskies began to loose the gap in points and fight for every basket. The Huskies lacked the same hunger they had going into the locker room and took several minutes to get back on their game. Several shots from outside the key bounced out of the net and started a routine that would follow both teams through to the last minutes of the game. Suddenly the Panthers were back in the game as foul shots began to make the difference between a win or a loss for either team. With seconds left and the point difference at one, Shane Morrison would sink both of his foul shots and boost the Pack to the 88-85 point win.

One name that would stand out during the game was Mark McLaughlin from Dartmouth with 32 points and five three-point baskets. Working hard the entire game and making key passes would earn him the "Player of the Game".

The Huskies will be returning to home court on Saturday, February against MUN at 7pm. (sports.sm@gmail.com)

Huskies at Home This Week

Hockey

Friday January 25th

Men vs. StFX @ 7pm at Halifax Forum

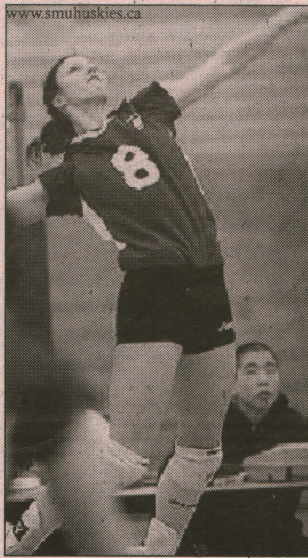
Saturday January 26th

Women vs. StFX @ 2pm at SMU Arena

Volleyball

Sunday January 27th

Women vs. UdeM @ 2pm at The Tower



www.smuhuskies.ca

For more Season games and information visit www.smuhuskies.ca



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THE JOURNAL IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND PROOFREADERS!!

If you have the desire to report on groundbreaking SMU and community news, or help out with proofreading, then come to the 5th floor of the Student Centre on Mondays, or email submissions to thesmujournal@gmail.com

EA Games NHL 2008: It's Addicting



ROBBIE NAUFFTS

With the New Year rolling around and the new Xbox 360 needing to be played, it was time to upgrade to EA Games NHL 2008.

Yes, I usually write about Sports and this is a game. But I won't lie; I am a video game junkie sometimes. NHL 2008 is the newest Hockey Game released by EA and has been one of the most competitive games on Xbox Live.

The game has your usual hockey games and long term games. You can pick up a controller with a buddy and play against each other or on the same team with up to four people. The game allows you to completely change the difficulty from Rookie, Pro, All-Star and adjust the computers game play as well as the rules. Not looking to spend two and a half hours playing and losing? That's fine; you can have five, ten and fifteen minute periods.

Getting mad that every time

you send a player from the other team sprawling on the ice you get called for roughing? Or how about playing the Dynasty and watching a key player leave the game with a concussion? You can take the injury setting and lower the frequency. Is Sydney Crosby scoring too many points on you? Raise the injury frequency and let one of your defenseman catch him in the trolley-tracks. (I actually feel bad that this happened over the weekend after I wrote this article. Weird right?)

The Dynasty mode allows you to pick a NHL team and their AHL (farm team) and take them through an entire season and set up your franchises prices for tickets, merchandise and food mark-up. Be ready to get mad though if you've left the setting on full because you will have players getting hurt and sick and forcing you to bring up guys from the Farm team and changing lines.

The game play itself is intense as EA continues their "Skill Stick" idea and gives you the chance to take slapshots and wrist shots by the way you flick the right thumb stick. It takes getting used to, but in no time you'll be finding the back of the net. Finding it too hard? Just set it to the "classic" controls and you just have

to press a button.

EA Games raises their graphic levels too this year. If you have an HD television (which I don't, but the game still looks great) your parents may think you're watching an actual hockey game. Every player is detailed down to the way they style their hair and you even have the freedom to make a player who looks like you. So now there is a Robbie Nauffts playing defense for the Leafs, but it's still tough to win because if you have the AI raised the computer will learn your style of play and adjust to offer more competition. Just slamming the other guy off the puck and trying to rush along the boards will leave you frustrated as you watch the defense start playing the trap. Good news though! The computer gives you a report every period on what to adjust to put the puck between the posts.

The only down fall of NHL

2008 is when you hear that loud "crunch" of a guy going against the glass in the corner—a loud cheer—followed by a whistle. Uh oh, Downie and Tucker are dropping their gloves and...it's a boring back and forth punching match until the little bar at the bottom makes its way to the other side. Then Tucker (or Downie) throws a hard punch and sends the other guy down on the ice. It's disappointing to watch, Rock 'em-Sock 'em Robots are more entertaining. Except when you watch the replay and witness Tucker body checking Downie into the boards and how great the physics are as Downie goes head over heels on the ice. No plastic robot will ever throw a hit like that.

So NHL 2008 gets 8.5/10 for good graphics, physics and settings but loses out to the almost afterthought fighting physics.



www.eagames.ca

Hockey Two Days in a Row?

Interested in watching the Women and Men's Hockey Teams in action this week?

With the Men's team opening up the points spread and closing in on a play-off spot, it's getting close to the wire with only a few games left. The Women's team is continuing to dominate with an eight game winning streak and they match up Saturday afternoon against the one of two teams to beat them this season. St FX has no losses and it's time for the SMU Women to kick them

right in the feel bads.

So if you are interested in getting out to two hockey games that are going to be intense and heated, email sports.smu@gmail.com expressing your interest to get together and some ideas to cheer on the teams! Cow bells, bangers whatever! It's the perfect excuse to call in sick or dead to work!

Your Student ID card gets you into both (and all) home games for free so be sure to get out and cheer!

2007-08 Men's Hockey Standings

	GP	W	L	OTL	Home	Road	GF	GA	±	Pts
UNB	20	15	1	1	9-1-0	9-0-1	96	39	57	37
Saint Mary's	20	14	5	1	7-2-1	7-3-0	92	66	24	29
Moncton	20	12	7	1	6-1-1	4-6-0	76	66	10	25
St. Thomas	19	8	6	5	5-2-2	3-4-3	60	60	0	21
SIFX	20	8	9	3	3-4-3	5-5-0	54	76	-22	19
UPEI	19	7	10	2	5-3-2	2-7-0	67	88	-21	16
Acadia	20	7	11	2	5-5-0	2-6-2	48	74	-26	16
Dalhousie	20	5	12	3	3-5-2	2-7-1	65	87	-22	13

NOTE: One point is awarded for an Overtime or Shootout Loss (OTL), which are not included in team statistics.

2007-08 Women's Hockey Standings

	GP	W	L	OTL	Home	Road	GF	GA	±	Pts
SIFX	14	14	0	0	6-0-0	8-0-0	82	12	70	28
Saint Mary's	13	11	1	1	6-0-0	5-1-1	50	26	24	23
Moncton	14	9	4	1	5-2-1	4-2-0	61	32	29	19
St. Thomas	14	8	6	0	4-4-0	4-2-0	34	45	-11	16
Dalhousie	14	5	9	0	2-4-0	3-5-0	41	52	-11	13
UNB	14	3	10	1	3-5-0	0-5-1	29	55	-26	7
Mount Allison	12	2	10	0	2-3-0	0-7-0	20	51	-41	4
UPEI	13	2	11	0	2-5-0	0-6-0	28	52	-34	4

NOTE: One point is awarded for an Overtime or Shootout Loss (OTL), which are not included in team statistics.

Standings courtesy of www.atlanticuniversitysport.com

SPORTS MINUTE

BROUGHT TO YOU
BY ROBBIE NAUFFTS

Super Bowl is Coming!

Well the teams have been decided and nothing else will be happening in sports land as The Giants take on the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. Who is it going to be kids? The unbeaten Patriots, or the Giants? I won't

pretend to know, but it's going to be quiet the match. Remember all the hype last year and on the first play a Quarter Back ran the ball for a touch down? That just shows that nothing can be predicted in sports land!

Penguins Lose Crosby

If there is big news in Halifax, it's that Cole Harbour hockey star Sydney Crosby is going to be out for four weeks after hitting the boards at a bad angle. Penguin medical staff were waiting for his pain to subside before running an MRI on his injury. Don't count the Penguins as sure to loose without

him though, they bounced back against the Canadiens Saturday night and their core of younger players will move them back up in the standings after their slide from third place. TSN is taking a poll if they will stay Top 8 or slide without Crosby. What do you think?

Devils Deny Leafs

Well it was a great three games with the fourth looking promising as the Leafs visited New Jersey. But the Devils took the game 3-2. At least us leaf fans

had something to talk about for a few days that wasn't a management change. A four spot gain isn't too bad.